Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the attached amended Abstract.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As a rice cooking apparatus that automatically carries out a series of steps from rice measuring to rinsing and further boiling of rice, various types have been proposed so far. None of such apparatuses is provided with a means for washing a rice kettle after bringing out boiled rice. Therefore it is necessary to manually wash a rice kettle, which ~~prevents enough laborsaving.~~is laborious.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The water supplier is intended for supplying water into the rice kettle when in the boiling, the washing and, if necessary, the rinsing. On the other hand, the discharger is intended for discharging the water and/or ~~others~~ other substances from the rice kettle after carrying out those steps.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, line 8, with the following reqritten paragraph:

When in rinsing ~~rise,~~ rice, the above suction pipe is set at the lower limit position where its tip is located slightly above the inner bottom surface of the rice kettle so as not to suck up the rice as well as the water. The tip of the suction pipe is spaced apart from the inner bottom surface of the rice kettle at such a distance that prevents entry of the rice. When in washing the rice kettle, provision is preferably made as follows. The tip of the suction pipe

is first located above the lower limit position so as to easily suck up water containing leftover rice, and then lowered gradually. At the stage of draining all the ~~whole~~ water within the rice kettle after completion of the final washing, the tip of the suction pipe is lowered to the above lower limit position, so that the remaining water is minimized.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 8, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The controller 70 for controlling each of the above means is composed of a control unit 71, an operation panel 72 and a ~~power unit 73.~~ power unit. The control unit 71 includes a control circuit. The operation panel 72 is provided with a rice cooking switch, a rice kettle washing switch, a rice cooking unit shift switch and a stop switch. The rice cooking switch sends a cooking start signal to the control unit 71, the rice kettle washing switch sends a washing start signal to the control unit 71, the rice cooking unit shift switch sends the control unit 71 a signal for moving the slide table 35 back and forth, and the stop switch sends the control unit 71 a signal stopping the operation of the full automatic rice cooking apparatus 10. The control unit 71 receives the signals from the respective switches and then runs predetermined programs. Each of the above means thus carries out the rice cooking steps in series.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 9, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the operator operates the rice cooking switch of the operation panel 72, the rice cooking apparatus 10 starts a series of ~~the works~~functions for the cooking. First, the control unit 71 receives the cooking start signal and then sends a contraction signal to the extension shaft 38 fixed to the upper face of the lid 34. The extension shaft 38 contracts in response to

the contraction signal, whereby the lid 34 moves upward. When the extension shaft 38 stops the contraction at a predetermined position, the slide arm 39b slides backward along the lid slide rail 39. Thus, the extension shaft 38 and the lid 34 fixed to the slide arm 39b moves backward. When the slide arm 39b stops at a predetermined position, the detector detects it and then sends the stop signal to the control unit 71. Receiving the stop signal, the control unit 71 sends a signal to the suction pipe driver 62, whereby the suction pipe driver 62 brings the suction pipe 61 down to the lower limit position. The lower limit position is preset so that the suction port 66 at the tip of the suction pipe is spaced apart from the inner bottom surface of the rice kettle 32 at such a distance that allows only the water to be sucked in while preventing the rice from entering the suction port 66.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 11, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Receiving a signal indicating that the lid 34 has been stopped, the control unit 71 sends the heater 33 a signal for the boiling. In advance of that, the rice is soaked for a specific period of time. When the boiling is finished, the control unit 71 sends the heater 33 a signal for the heat retention in response to a signal indicating that the boiling has been finished. When the rice cooker main body 31 comes into a heat retention mode, the rice cooking apparatus 10 of the present embodiment ~~once~~ brings a series of ~~the~~ steps for rice cooking to an end.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 13, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

After a preset period of time, the ultrasonic transducers 41 finish the washing work, and a signal indicating that the washing has been finished is sent to the control unit 71. In

response to that, the control unit 71 raises the lid 34 again and then put it on standby at the rear position. Receiving a signal indicating that the lid 34 has been stopped, the control unit 71 then sends the suction pipe driver 62 a signal for lowering the suction pipe. In response to that, the suction pipe driver 62 lowers the suction pipe 61 to the inside of the rice kettle 32 and then stops it at a predetermined position. The suction port 66 is positioned at a level above the lower limit position so as to easily suck in the leftover rice contained in the washing water. Receiving a signal indicating that the suction pipe 61 has been stopped, the control unit 71 drives the pump 64 and discharges the water containing the leftover rice. For adequately washing the rice kettle, a series of the steps including the ultrasonic washing and the water discharge are repeated a preset number of times, while the suction pipe 61 is lowered gradually. At the stage of draining the water within the rice kettle 32 after the final washing, the suction port 66 is close to the bottom of the rice ~~kettle 32 to the minimum,~~kettle 32, so that the remaining water is minimized.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 14, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

After the rice kettle washing operation is performed a preset number of times, a signal indicating that the water discharge has been finished is sent to the control unit 71. In response to that, the control unit 71 moves the suction pipe 61 upward and stops it at a predetermined position. Receiving a signal indicating that the suction pipe 61 has been stopped, the control unit 71 sends the heater 33 a heating signal for a preset period of time, so as to dry the rice kettle 32. After the preset period of time, the control unit 71 finishes the step of drying the rice kettle by stopping sending the heating signal. Then, the control unit 71 lowers the lid 34 to ~~closes~~ close the rice cooker main body 31.